

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

OFCM

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH



PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE
WEATHER INFORMATION FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION:
DELIVERING IMPROVED SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY FOR TOMORROW
SYMPOSIUM



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November 30 - December 2, 1999

Holiday Inn
Silver Spring, Maryland



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Washington, DC
February 2000

FOREWORD

The “Weather Information for Surface Transportation (WIST): *Delivering Improved Safety and Efficiency for Tomorrow*” symposium was held on November 30 - December 2, 1999, at the Holiday Inn, Silver Spring, Maryland. An unprecedented cross-section of more than 120 transportation and weather professionals representing federal, state, and city governments, urban and rural transportation agencies, professional and trade organizations, and weather services providers (government and commercial) attended the plenary sessions and three workshops. Keynote speakers were Dr. Stephen Van Beek, Associate Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, and Dr. D. James Baker, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The goal of the symposium was to provide a forum leading to the establishment of national needs and requirements for weather information associated with the decision-making actions involving surface transportation. This goal is consistent with a major theme of the historic Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater, in his summary message, stated “...*transportation is about more than concrete, asphalt, and steel...it is about people, and about providing them with the opportunity to lead safer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives.*” The WIST symposium was a significant step toward achieving this goal.

This document summarizes the proceedings of the WIST symposium and captures the recommendations from the breakout sessions. An analysis of the WIST questionnaire and a requirements document will be released later this summer.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration for helping co-host this important and highly successful event. I am indebted to the membership of the Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (ICMSSR) and the Joint Action Group for Weather Information for Surface Transportation (JAG/WIST) for their support and guidance. Finally, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the WIST participants whose contributions provided significant impact. Without you, our ability to identify and resolve specific, time-critical issues and projects would be jeopardized.



Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services
and Supporting Research

PROCEEDINGS

of the

Weather Information for Surface Transportation:

Delivering Improved Safety and Efficiency for Tomorrow

Symposium

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